

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2–17 are in the present application. It is submitted that claims 1–15, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 16 and 17 are added.

Attached hereto as an Appendix entitled “Version with Markings Showing Changes Made,” is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this Amendment.

Claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 10 in accordance with the Examiner’s comments. Therefore, Applicants believe this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1–15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (U.S. Patent 5,212,643) and De Jong (European Patent publication 0 378 271). However, the

present invention processes “display data of a circle or an arc which has a center at a specified point on said map and links points on said perspective view at geographical distances from said center equal to those of said map.” (Claim 1; Claim 9 contains a similar limitation) The specification describes this processing as actually calculating the points on the circle or the arc based on the scale of the map. By contrast, Yoshida discloses using a plurality of stored “scale indication patterns showing the respective reduced scales.” (Abstract) Thus Yoshida uses a predetermined selection of circles corresponding to various scales, rather than calculating (processing) the circles based on the scale at the time of display as in the present invention. De Jong is relied on solely to meet the present invention’s perspective view limitation and does not disclose processing of circles or arcs. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants believe claims 1–17 should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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Appendix
Version with Markings Showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1.

Please amend claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 as follows:

—2. (amended) An electronic map apparatus comprising:

data fetching means for fetching map data from media for storing said map data to be displayed as a map;

a display device for displaying said map in a perspective view in accordance with said map data; and

a microcomputer for processing display data of a circle or an arc which has a center at a specified point on said map and links points on said perspective view [map] at [equal] geographical distances from said center equal to those of said map,

wherein, when said map is displayed on said display device in said perspective view, said circle or said arc is displayed on the basis of said circle's or said arc's display data processed by said microcomputer being superimposed on said map displayed on said display device in a perspective view [in accordance with said data processed by said microcomputer when said map is displayed on said display device].—

—3. (amended) An electronic map apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said microcomputer processes data of a plurality of [said] circles or [said] arcs representing different geographical distances from said center and [said] the circles or [said] arcs are each superposed on said map displayed in a perspective view.—

—9. (amended) An electronic map display method comprising the steps of:

fetching map data from predetermined media for storing said map data to be displayed as a map;

displaying said map on a display device in a perspective view in accordance with said map data; and

displaying a circle or an arc, which has a center at a specified point on said map and links points on said perspective view [map] at [equal] geographical distances from said center[, on] equal to those of said map [displayed on a display device in a perspective view].—

—10. (amended) An electronic map display method according to claim 9, wherein a plurality of [said] circles or [said] arcs representing different geographical distances from said center and the circles or arcs are each displayed on said map displayed in a perspective view.—

Please add new claims 16 and 17 as follows:

—16. (new) The electronic map apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said circle or said arc being displayed is switched from one display state to another in accordance with an angle of depression of the map being displayed on the display device in said perspective view.—

—17. (new) The electronic map display method according to claim 9, wherein said circle or said arc being displayed is switched from one display state to another in accordance with an angle of depression of the map being displayed on the display device in said perspective view.—